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COM 210E.02: Critical Thinking, Analysis and Problem Solving

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**UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA-MISSOULA
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Prepared by T. Stanton

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: U 210E: Critical Thinking, Analysis and Problem Solving

REVISED: August 2005

PREREQUISITES: COM 101T: English Composition or consent of instructor.

Note: If you do not have the prerequisite or consent of instructor, you may be asked to leave the class.

INSTRUCTOR NAME, E-MAIL ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, OFFICE LOCATION, OFFICE HOURS: Thomas H. Stanton, Tom.Stanton@umontana.edu, (406) 243-7850, Business Administration Building, East Campus, Office hours by appointment or see schedule on office door.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course will provide an introduction to critical thinking, conflict analysis and problem solving with an examination of the fundamentals of each process and an evaluation of ethical considerations for each projected result. Additionally, the course will provide a frame work for determining decision making scope as well as provide basic formulae for conscious resolution strategies.

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to: Recognize situations requiring conscious decision making, analyze the scope and potential impact of the possible resolutions and apply an elemental, step by step approach to effectuate the desired conclusion.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: An attendance sheet will be distributed at the beginning of every class. All students are expected to attend every class unless excused by the instructor prior to class.

OTHER POLICIES: Make up tests or quizzes will not be given unless the instructor is contacted at least one hour prior to the scheduled test or quiz. Late papers will not be accepted without prior consent of the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor either in person or in writing regarding an anticipated missed test, quiz or late paper.

If any student requires special consideration for any reason, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor to discuss the matter prior to any situation giving rise to the special consideration requested.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- 1. Becoming a Critical Thinker**, third edition, Vincent Ryan Ruggiero
- 2. Philosophy through the Ages** by Joan A. Price

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: As announced and/or distributed by the instructor.

SUPPLIES: pen, paper, 3 ring binder, floppy disk, brain.

Critical Thinking, Analysis and Problem Solving Calendar

Meeting Times: Tuesday and Thursday 1:10 p.m. 2:30 p.m.

Meeting Place: AD 11

Week 1

Material to be covered:

Philosophy through the Ages, Chapter 1: The Pre-Socratics: Early Greek Philosophers
Becoming a Critical Thinker, Chapter 1: Mastering the Fundamentals

Week 2

Material to be covered:

Philosophy through the Ages, Chapter 2: Socrates and the Sophists
Becoming a Critical Thinker, Chapter 1: Mastering the Fundamentals
Note: No class Monday: Labor Day.

Week 3

Material to be covered:

Philosophy through the Ages, Chapter 3: Plato
Becoming a Critical Thinker, Chapter 2: Becoming an Individual
Note: No class Monday

Week 4

Material to be covered: (Continued Discussion)

Philosophy through the Ages, Chapter 3: Plato

Week 5

Material to be covered:

Philosophy through the Ages, Chapter 4: Aristotle
Becoming a Critical Thinker, Chapter 2: Becoming an Individual

Week 6

Material to be covered:

Philosophy through the Ages, Chapter 5: Hellenistic Philosophy
Becoming a Critical Thinker, Chapter 3: Evaluating Arguments

Week 7

Material to be covered:

Philosophy through the Ages, Chapter 6: The Medieval World
Becoming a Critical Thinker, Chapter 3: Evaluating Arguments

Note: Instructor absence Monday. Class will be held on Wednesday.

Week 8

Review for Mid-Term Examination

Mid-term Examination

Week 9

Material to be covered:

Philosophy through the Ages, Chapter 7: Modern Philosophy: The Reformation, Science, and Rationalism

Becoming a Critical Thinker, Chapter 4: Solving Problems

Week 10

Material to be covered:

Philosophy through the Ages, Chapter 8: British Empiricism: Locke, Berkeley, and Hume
Becoming a Critical Thinker, Chapter 5: Recognizing Errors in Thinking

Week 11

Material to be covered:

Philosophy through the Ages, Chapter 9: Immanuel Kant: Critical Philosophy
Becoming a Critical Thinker, Chapter 5: Recognizing Errors in Thinking

Week 12

Material to be covered:

Philosophy through the Ages, Chapter 10: Idealism and Materialism: Hegel and Marx
Becoming a Critical Thinker, Chapter 6: Applying Critical Thinking

Week 13

Material to be covered:

Philosophy through the Ages, Chapter 11: Utilitarianism: Wollstonecraft, Bentham, Mill, Taylor

Becoming a Critical Thinker, Chapter 6: Applying Critical Thinking

Note: No class Wednesday: Thanksgiving Holiday Travel Day.

Week 14

Material to be covered:

Philosophy through the Ages, Chapter 12: Individualism: Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Rand
Becoming a Critical Thinker, Chapter 7: Expressing Ideas Persuasively

Week 15

Work on final revisions to final papers.

Grading Content: Students will be graded on periodic papers and chapter quizzes. The instructor will set the schedule for due dates in the first week of class.

Grading Scale:

A: 100-90%

B: 89-80%

C: 79-70%

D: 69-60%

F: below 60%